

Message Text

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SUBJECT: CHINA NEWS EDITORIAL ON PRESIDENT FORD'S COMMENTS TO
THE CHICAGO COUNCIL

1. MARCH 15 CHINA NEWS EDITORIAL USED PRESIDENT FORD'S REPORTED
REMARKS TO THE CHICAGO COUNCIL ON FOREIGN RELATIONS (SEE SEPTTEL)
AS A TAKE-OFF POINT FOR DISCUSSING US-CHINA POLICY. FOLLOWING
IS THE FULL TEXT OF THE EDITORIAL:

BEGIN TEXT

2. FROM OUR POINT OF VIEW, THERE WERE POSITIVE AND NEGATIVE SIDES
TO WHAT PRESIDENT FORD HAD TO SAY ABOUT THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA IN
HIS SPEECH TO THE CHICAGO COUNCIL OF FOREIGN RELATIONS.

3. POSSITIVELY, HE SAID:

-- RELATIONS BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND THE REPUBLIC OF
CHINA ARE GOOD.

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-- THE TWO COUNTRIES ARE LINKED BY A DEFENSE TREATY.

-- MAINTENANCE OF A CONTINUING RELATIONSHIP WITH THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA IS IN THE NATIONAL INTEREST OF THE UNITED STATES.

4. NEGATIVELY, HE SIAD:

-- THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA IS NO LONGER DEPENDENT ON THE UNITED STATES FOR MILITARY AND ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE.
-- WASHINGTON IS CONTINUING TO MOVE TOWARD "NORMALIZATION" OF RELATIONS WITH THE CHINESE COMMUNISTS AND IT IS MERELY "HOPED" THAT A "PROPER RELATIONSHIP" CAN BE MAINTAINED WITH THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA.

5. HIS ASSERTION THAT THE FORMULA FOR RELATIONS WITH THE CHINESE COMMUNISTS AND THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA HAS NOT BEEN FINALIZED IS POSITIVE IN ONE SENSE, NEGATIVE IN ANOTHER.

6. OBVIOUSLY, THE POSITIVES AND NEGATIVES CONTRADICT EACH OTHER. THIS IS WHY, AS PRESIDENT FORD SAID, "IT IS DIFFICULT TO WRITE A PRESCRIPTION (FOR PEIPING RECOGNITION) IN CHICAGO."

6. FOR EXAMPLE, HOW COULD THE UNITED STATES EVER RECOGNIZE THE CHINESE COMMUNISTS WHILE THE DEFENSE TREATY WITH THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA WAS IN EFFECO?

7. EVERYONE KNOWS THAT THE TREATY'S SOLE PURPOSE IS TO PROTECT TAIWAN AGAINST AGGRESSION FROM THE CHINESE MAINLAND.

8. ARE THE CHINESE COMMUNISTS ABOUT TO EXCHANGE AMBASSADORS WITH A COUNTRY WHICH IS DEFENDING A PART OF THE TERRITORY WHICH THEY CLAIM AND WHICH THEY ARE SWORN TO "LIBERATE" AND ENSLAVE?

8. AND IF THE DEFENSE TREATY REMAINS IN FULL FORCE AND EFFECT, HOW CAN THE UNITED STATES--BY FAR THE STRONGER OF THE TWO PARTNERS--ESCAPE ITS OBLIGATION TO PROVIDE DEFENSE ASSISTANCE TO THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA?

9. IN TERMS OF PAYMENT, THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA CAN STAND ON ITS OWN FEET MILITARILY. IF WORSE CAME TO WORST, WE COULD GET ALONG WITHOUT THE SOFT CREDITS EXTENDED BY THE UNITED STATES. WE COULD PAY CASH ON THE BARRELHEAD.

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10. WE CANNOT, HOWEVER, GET ALONG WITHOUT ARMAMENTS AND MILITARY COMPONENTS SUPPLIED BY THE UNITED STATES.

11. OUR WEAPONS SYSTEMS ARE AMERICAN AND DEPEND IN CRUCIAL CASES --GROUND-TO-AIR MISSILES, FOR EXAMPLE--ON AMERICAN-MADE WARHEADS.

12. IT IS TRUE THAT WE ARE MAKING FIGHTER PLANES AND HELICOPTERS. BUT WE ARE FAR FROM READY TO GO ON PRODUCING THEM WITHOUT PHYSICAL

AND TECHNICAL HELP FROM THE UNITED STATES.

13. ARE THE CHINESE COMMUNISTS PREPARED TO ENTER INTO DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH A COUNTRY WHICH IS SUPPLYING ARMS TO THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA?

14. ECONOMICALLY, ABOUT A THIRD OF TAIWAN'S TRADE IS WITH THE UNITED STATES.

15. THE BALANCE IS IN OUR FAVOR. IN THIS SENSE WE ARE NOT DEPENDENT .
WE ARE DEPENDENT IN THE SENSE THAT THE TRADE IS ESSENTIAL TO OUR VIABLE ECONOMIC EXISTENCE.

16. THE CHINESE COMMUNISTS ARE TRYING TO DAMAGE US ECONOMICALLY THROUGH THE POLITICAL RELATIONSHIP IT HAS ESTABLISHED WITH OTHER COUNTRIES OF THE FREE WORLD. THEY WOULD DO THE SAME, IF THEY COULD, IN THE RELATIONSHIP WITH THE UNITED STATES.

17. IF THE UNITED STATES "NORMALIZES" RELATIONS WITH PEIPING, WHAT CONSTITUTES A "PROPER RELATIONSHIP" WITH THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA?

18. THE CHINESE COMMUNISTS HAVE MADE THEIR POSITION COMPLETELY CLEAR. AMERICANS ARE TO GET OUT OF TAIWAN, LOCK, STOCK AND BARREL WITH THE POSSIBLE TEMPORARY EXCEPTION OF AN UNOFFICIAL TRADE OFFICE SUCH AS THAT NOW MAINTAINED BY JAPAN.

19. THIS WOULD MEAN TERMINATION OF THE DEFENSE AGREEMENT AND OF MILITARY AID. IT WOULD REQUIRE THE WITHDRAWAL OF ALL AMERICAN MILITARY FORCES FROM TAIWAN AND THE DENIAL OF US ACCESS TO THE TAIWAN STRAITS. ANY PROMISE OF THE CHINESE COMMUNISTS NOT TO USE FORCE AND VIOLENCE AGAINST TAIWAN WOULD BE AS WORTHLESS AS THE PLEDGE
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OF NORTH VIETNAM TO END THE WAR AGAINST SOUTH VIETNAM.

20. THE CONTRADICTIONS BETWEEN WHAT THE UNITED STATES KNOWS IS RIGHT AND WAHT THE CHINESE COMMUNISTS DEMAND HAVE PROTECTED THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA SO FAR. AMERICANS ARE NOT WILLING TO PAY THE PRICE OF SELLING OUT A FRIEND AND ALLY. THIS IS WHAT PEIPING IS DEMANDING; THIS IS THE PRICE OF US "NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS" WITH THE CHINESE COMMUNISTS.

21. WE MUST BE REALISTIC, HOWEVER, AND ADMIT THAT MR. FORD'S ASSESSMENT IS SLIGHTLY WEIGHTED AGAINST US. IN THE END HE SAID THAT WHILE A FORMULA FOR CHINESE COMMUNIST RECOGNITION IS DIFFUCLT, "I THINK IT IS POSSIBLE AND I THINK IT IS IN OUR NATIONAL INTEREST."

22. THIS COUNTRY AGREES ON THE DIFFICULTY. BUT WE BELIEVE IT

IS IMPOSSIBLE FOR THE UNITED STATES TO FIND A FORMULA WHICH IS
IN THE US INTEREST AND WHICH WOULD ASSURE A CONTINUING AND "PROPER"
RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN WASHINGTON AND TAIPEI.

23. IF THE UNITED STATES IS HONEST WITH ITSELF AND WITH US,
THERE CAN BE NO FORMULA. THIS IS THE REALITY WE MUST HELP
PRESIDENT FORD AND THE UNITED STATES TO UNDERSTAND. END TEXT
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